

REMARKS

The following amendments and remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the non-final Official Action of **May 9, 2005**. In the present amendment, claims 15, 16, 22, 28, 32, and 39-43 are amended, and new claims 44-47 are added. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., Applicants' published patent application, ¶¶ [0086]-[0091]). Thus, claims 15-47 are now pending. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The present independent claim 15, as amended, and the claims dependent therefrom, are patently distinguishable over *Wyman* (USP 5,204,897), because *Wyman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest all of the features recited in the claims. For example, independent claim 15, as amended (emphasis added), recites:

A digital right management system, comprising:
a secure component;
an interface between said secure component and a software application;
said secure component processes requests coming from said software application through said interface;
said secure component validates signatures of one or more certificate documents to verify that said software application is compatible with said secure component;
in the case of verification of compatibility, said secure component allows operation of said software application; and
in the case of incompatibility, said secure component refuses to allow operation of said software application through said interface.

Thus, independent claim 15, as amended, is directed to the novel feature of a secure component that validates signatures of one or more certificate documents **to verify that a software application is compatible with the secure component**. By contrast, as correctly noted at page 2 of the present Office Action, *Wyman* discloses a "secure container or environment [that] validates signatures of one or more documents to verify that one the one or more documents are compatible with the secure container." However, *Wyman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the noted features, as recited in independent 15, as amended.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON PEABODY, LLP

/Carlos R. Villamar, Reg. # 43,224/

Carlos R. Villamar

Reg. No. 43,224

NIXON PEABODY LLP

CUSTOMER NO.: 22204

401 9th Street, N.W., Suite 900

Washington, DC 20004

Tel: 202-585-8000

Fax: 202-585-8080